LOS RANCHOS

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OF THE

LAFAYETTE - ORINDA - MORAGA

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

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RANCHOS OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

The story of the ranchos of Contra Costa County will be told by Ruth Galindo, descendant of the first Spanish explorers and settlers in California. They were the Amadors, Pachecos and Galindos, who came with the Portola and Anza expeditions.

Salvio Pacheco, Miss Galindo's great great grandfather, settled on Rancho Monte del Diablo and founded the city of "Todos Santos," known as Concord today. She will show slides of early photographs to illustrate her talk.

Miss Galindo, formerly head of the Modern Language Department at Mt. Diablo High School, is now retired. She is author of many articles on Contra Costa County, and is writing the History of the Catholic Church in Concord on the occasion of its centennial commemoration.

The Galindos and Pachecos played a significant role in the history of Lamorinda. It was Ruth's grandfather's purchase of a mortgage on the Bernal family's interest that led to its falling into the hands of Carpentier and his subsequent claiming a half-interest in the Moraga portion as well. He sold also his Moraga interest to John B. Watson, Carpentier's agent.

Salvio Pacheco drew the original map of the Rancho and was a witness at the Land Commission hearing. His son, Fernando, was a co-defendant with Jose Moraga in the many suits by Carpentier to obtain the Rancho lands. Two of his children married Moragas.

Take Orinda Village off-ramp and keep in right lane. Turn right at Shell Station, and left on Orinda Way. The old school is across from Lucky Market.

EARLY CALIFORNIA COSTUMES -- FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT

California history can be fun as evidenced by the number of school children at the February fourth historical society meeting. Mrs. Joseph T. Gregory, an authority on historical costumes and a noted doll collector spoke on "Early California Costumes As Shown on Dolls."

"In the beginning of California history were the California Indians," said Mrs. Gregory as she began her talk to members of the three societies. With this introduction the speaker discussed the authentic costumes on each doll and its place and time in early California history.

Included in her collection of dolls was an Indian man and an Indian woman along with a number of artifacts such as a beautifully woven basket and tobacco case. A Franciscan missionary dressed in grey wool represented the Mission Period of the 18th Century. By 1830, dramatic changes in costumes had taken place as illustrated by a doll in a long dress of the Spanish period. In the 1850's, as the gold seekers came into California, Calico was the practical choice for women's dresses just as the durable trousers and colorful shirts were the typical costumes of the gold miners.

One of the most interesting of Mrs. Gregory's dolls was a miniature replica of the famous Patti Reed doll. The original wooden doll may be seen in the museum at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento.

The doll collection goes next to Springhill School in Lafayette where it will remain for a month. Mrs. Gregory is a voluntary resource person in the Lafayette School District.

LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORAL HISTORY REPORT

Mrs. John Helmick, chairman of the oral history committee has been gathering names of and pertinent facts about local residents whose recollections go back to the days when Lafayette was a farming and ranching community.

Over 30 names of long-time residents have been suggested, and Mrs. Helmick has already tape-recorded five interviews.

The purchase of a transcribing machine has been approved by the Board, and plans are to transcribe these interviews and to prepare them for library use.

Volunteers are urgently needed for this important oral history project, and members may call Mrs. Helmick at 933-8630.

ARTIFACTS RELATING TO LAFAYETTE HISTORY

A list of artifacts relating to the history of Lafayette has been compiled, and a copy of that report is now at City Hall and in the historical file cabinet at the Lafayette Library on Moraga Road.

Some of the artifacts now owned by the historical society include: Elam Brown's lantern, Peter Thomson's anvil, branding irons from the Sumner Hodges family and the Carroll Ranch, and old record books of the Lafayette Post Office.

The report lists other artifacts in the city and those owned by private citizens. Mentioned are some artifacts which are "lost" at the present time.

Committee Chairmen Fern Davis (939-4635) and Ted Murphy (283-3547) who completed the report invite comment, and welcome any information on local artifacts.

THIRD ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER IS TUESDAY, APRIL 23, AT VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

Tentative plans call for a no-host social hour from 6 to 7 p.m., and dinner at 7. The program includes a panel discussion with "Old Timers." Details will be in the April Los Ranchos. Committee chairmen will be contacting you soon, so be sure to save April 23 for this festive annual event.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1974-1975 YEAR

The membership will be asked to vote on the new Board of Directors at the general meeting at the April 23 Pot Luck Dinner. The nominating committee presents the following names: Walter Costa, Esther Marchant, Lee Pfautch, Edith Viguers, Angela Broadhead, Toni Fingers, Sandy Kimball, Joan Merryman, and Betsy Willcuts.

Nominations may also be made from the floor.

We acknowledge with appreciation the services of the retiring Directors.

Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month. All members are welcome.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. John Athanson
John and Martha Gridley
Mr. and Mrs. Todd LaPorte
Phil and Bonnie Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Reidelberger
Richard and Frances Singer
Cec and Merle Wood

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WON'T YOU DO THAT TODAY?

MORAGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 11 MEETING AT JOAQUIN MORAGA TO REVIEW THE 1920'S AND THE 1930'S

Old-timers who were teen-agers in the '20's and the '30's in Moraga Valley will be on hand to reminisce about the days when residential Moraga was the company town off School St., and suburban Moraga was a double row of ranchettes on Larch and Camino.

Those who have already signed up are--Art Fleuti, John Sanders, Marian Carroll, Frank Trelut, Eleanor Pimentel, Hank Boeger, and Tom Twomey. On hand to compare notes with them are Thelma Quinley, principal at Old Moraga School in the '40's; Postmaster Eleanor Dickenson; Brother Dennis, who was a student at St. Mary's in the early '30's. Slides of old scenes (aerial and close-up) will vie with current views to perk memories.

ANZA TREK SOUND/SLIDE TALK PURCHASED FROM AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The Society has ordered a 160-slide set of transparencies showing the route of the Anza-Moraga colonizing expedition of 1775-76 and contemporaneous events in the Colonies that led to the War of Independence. The show was produced by California Heritage Guides of Monterey. The Society will make it available to schools and organizations.

POSTAGE STAMP COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF THE S.F. PRESIDIO URGED

A letter was sent to the mayor of San Francisco recommending that he petition for the issuance of a U. S. postage stamp commemorating the founding of the Presidio there. It would depict the ceremony in which Joseph Joachin Moraga was the central figure.

LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE NEW MORAGA LIBRARY

With a gold stamped "Gift of the Moraga Historical Society" on their covers. several books on local history will begin a collection of such works in the Moraga Library upon its opening this summer. Among the titles are the histories of Orinda, Canyon (2), the Sacramento Northern Railroad (3), and Saint Mary's College. Three other series will follow: Books about the earlier Moragas; about former residents of the Rancho; collections of documents relating to various facets of the history of the Moraga Grant.

SOCIETY TO TAKE CENSUS OF PRE-1914 AMERICAN PAINTINGS DURING THE FIESTA DAYS

In response to a request by the Smithsonian Institution the Society will act as an agent in recording the location and description of pre-1914 paintings executed in America. Owners of such art will be invited to bring the works to the Fiesta booth where they will be registered and photographed. An art gallery curator will be on hand for advice. The identity of the owner will be guarded by the Smithsonian if so desired.

THANKS FOR GIFTS TO THE ARCHIVES FROM:

+ Contra Costa County Historical Society - for a contribution of $15 toward the cost of the Albert Norman manuscript on H. W. Carpentier. Fifty dollars was paid to an heir.
+ Eleanor Dickenson - for the loan of the Utah Construction Co. collection of slides which included over 100 covering the Rancho, its history, and that of the Moragas.
+ Roger Rehm - our most distant (W. Sacramento) member - for copies of articles he has written for newspapers about early Spanish families and settlements in Sonoma County.
+ Rick Stanley - for a copy of his term paper on the Sacramento Northern; also for selling at a $10 loss an out-of-print book on the railroad (Interurbans Special 26; 200pp).
+ Warren Miller - Photographs of King Canyon, showing structures, before San Leandro Reservoir water covered it; for an 8 x 10 photo of Willow Spring School in the 1920's.

"EL RANCHO" NOW BEING INDEXED BY WAYNE McCLISH

In response to a questionnaire from the Bibliography and Indexes Committee of the History Section of the American Library Association the eight volumes of El Rancho are now being indexed. This will be published along with corrections of errata in reporting.

BILL MEDER HAS LOCATED SITES OF MORAGA'S FIRST (1854) PUBLIC BUILDINGS WITH HIS ELEC-

tronic detector in preparation for our youth historial archeology and research program.

BOOKS FOR SALE: History of Canyon, 1849-1939 ($7); St. Mary's College, 1859-1969 ($10); Guide to the Study of the U. S. A. (new, 1200 pp., an annotated bibliography $7); Irish Families, Their Names, Arms and Origins (new, color plates, $9). Phone 376-4411Ext.215.

ORINDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our members were saddened to learn of the death last week of two of our community pioneers. Dr Murray Groves was actively interested in community affairs for over 25 years until his death at the age of 87. He was a charter member of our society and attended most meetings and trips.

Two generations of Orinda children were started through school under the loving guidance of Myrtle Patterson. She was the Director of the Orinda Cooperative Nursery School for 25 years until her retirement in 1967.

During the Oral History interview, she said that she had trained many mothers as well as children, and that many of them have become community leaders. She and her husband Pat came to Orinda in 1937 when there were only forty families. She worked with the children in Laura Mallory's Nursery School, leaving it to take charge of the Post Office. Orinda was only an annex of the Berkeley Post Office, and was located in a corner of the Orinda Store. She told of her first months in Orinda, having moved from San Francisco. She continued to put on her hat and gloves every time she went to the store--How times change!

Upon her retirement the mothers of the hundreds of children she had cared for joined together to send her on a Hawaiian vacation. She and Pat lived in Oregon where she spent long hours in a pediatric hospital comforting her beloved children.

Orinda is a better place because of people like Dr. Groves and Myrtle Patterson.

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RANCHOS OF CONTRA COSTA

Speaker:
Ruth Galindo

Tues., Mar. 4 8 P.M.
Orinda Community Center
(Old Orinda Sch., Rm.7)

TIME VALUE

Mrs. F. P. Davis
1301 Canyonwood
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
Apt. 6